

CLEAN COPIES OF CLAIMS

CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1 . A system for protecting a person from surprise or uncomfortable electrostatic discharge (ESD) comprising:
an electrostatic discharge conducting contact element which is in time-extended contact with a person who is to be protected from electrostatic discharge when in use;
a control circuit electrically connected to said contact element, said control circuit including a first resistor element having a resistance which upon initial contact between the person and said contact element will drain some, but not all, electrostatic discharge from said contact element;
an inductor element in series with said contact element; and
a ground circuit electrically associated with said control circuit.

2 . The system defined in Claim 1 wherein the first resistor element is physically located closely adjacent to said contact element and is in series with said inductor element.

3 . The system defined in Claim 1 wherein said first resistor element is in series with said time-extended contact element and is in series with said inductor element.

7 . The system defined in Claim 1 wherein said control circuit further includes a second resistor, and said second resistor has a value of at least one megohm and is in series with said inductor element.

17 . A system for protecting a person from surprise or uncomfortable electrostatic discharge (ESD) comprising:
an electrostatic discharge conducting contact element which is in time-extended contact with a person who is to be protected from electrostatic discharge when in use;
a control circuit electrically connected to said contact element, said control circuit including a first resistor element in series with said contact element and being located within one foot of said contact element; an inductor element separate from the first resistor element; and
a ground circuit electrically associated with said control circuit.

19 . A system for protecting a person from surprise or uncomfortable electrostatic discharge (ESD) comprising:
an electrostatic discharge conducting contact element which is in time-extended contact with a person who is to be protected from electrostatic discharge when in use;
a control circuit electrically connected to said contact element, said control circuit including a first resistor element in series with said contact element and having a resistance in excess of five megohms;
an inductor element; and
a ground element electrically connected to said control circuit.

34 . A system for protecting a person from surprise or

uncomfortable electrostatic discharge (ESD) comprising:
a headphone device;
an electrostatic discharge conducting contact element which is
located in said headphone device to be in time-extended
contact with a person who is using said headphone device and
who is to be protected from electrostatic discharge when
using said headphone device;
a control circuit electrically connected to said contact element,
said control circuit including a first resistor element in
series with said contact element and having a resistance
which will upon initial contact between the user and said
contact element drain some, but not all, ESD from said
contact element and an inductor element; and
a ground circuit electrically associated with said control
circuit.

42 . A system for protecting a person from surprise or painful
electrostatic discharge (ESD) comprising:
a user contacting device having a plurality of user contacting
locations thereon;
an electrostatic discharge conducting contact element at each
user contacting location of the plurality of user contacting
locations and which contact a user in a time-extended manner
when in use;
a control circuit electrically connected to each of said contact
elements and including a first resistor having a resistance

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that is sized to upon initial contact between the user and said contact element drain some, but not all, electrostatic charge from said contact element and an inductor element; and

a ground circuit electrically associated with said control circuit.

47 . A system for protecting a person from surprise or uncomfortable electrostatic discharge (ESD) comprising:

a computer mouse;

an electrostatic discharge conducting contact element which is located in said computer mouse to be in time-extended contact with a person who is using said computer mouse and who is to be protected from electrostatic discharge when using said computer mouse;

a control circuit electrically connected to said contact element, said control circuit including a first resistor element having a resistance which will upon initial contact between the user and said contact element drain some, but not all, electrostatic charge from said contact element and an inductor element; and

a ground circuit electrically associated with said control circuit.

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48 . A system for protecting a person from surprise or uncomfortable electrostatic discharge (ESD) comprising:

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a computer keyboard;
an electrostatic discharge conducting contact element which is located in said computer keyboard to be in time-extended contact with a person who is using said computer keyboard and who is to be protected from electrostatic discharge when using said computer keyboard;
a control circuit electrically connected to said contact element, said control circuit including a first resistor element having a resistance which will upon initial contact between the user and said contact element drain some, but not all, electrostatic charge from said contact element, and an inductor element; and
a ground circuit electrically associated with said control circuit.

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54 . A system for protecting a person from surprise or uncomfortable electrostatic discharge (ESD) comprising:
an electrostatic discharge conducting contact element which is in time-extended contact with a person who is to be protected from electrostatic discharge when in use;
a ground circuit;
a conductor connecting said contact element to said ground circuit;
a first resistor element in said conductor near said ground circuit, said first resistor element being sized to prevent AC shock from moving from said ground circuit past said

first resistor and through said conductor toward said contact element;

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a second resistor element in said conductor nearer to said contact element than said first resistor to reduce initial contact shock, said first and having a resistance which upon initial contact between the person and said contact element will drain some, but not all, electrostatic charge from said contact element by limiting the available current flow to the contact means; and

an inductor element electrically connected to said first resistor element.

56 . The system defined in Claim 48 further including an inductor element in series with said contact element.

57 . The system defined in Claim 47 further including an inductor element in series with said contact element.

58 . The system defined in Claim 42 further including an inductor element in series with each contact element.

59 . A method of protecting a person from surprise or uncomfortable electrostatic discharge (ESD) comprising:

providing an electrostatic discharge (ESD) conducting contact element;

initially contacting the ESD contact element for a time-extended period of longer than a touch;

draining some, but not all, electrostatic charge during the initial contact; and

reducing radio frequency interference associated with a build-up portion of said draining step.

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64 . A system for protecting a person from surprise or uncomfortable electrostatic discharge (ESD) comprising:

an electrostatic discharge conducting contact element which is in means for contacting a person who is to be protected from electrostatic discharge when in use in a time-extended manner;

means for draining some, but not all, electrostatic charge from the person upon initial contact between that person and said means for contacting a person;

means for reducing a build-up portion of radio frequency interference associated with said means for draining; and

means for grounding said means for contacting a person.